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# VALLEY STAR

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LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

## Tuition Could Increase

BY SERENA DANIELS  
STAFF WRITER

Tuition fees could be raised to \$16 a unit by January 2004 and continue to increase by \$5 a year for the next three years due to the assembly Higher Education Committee's vote to pass Assembly Bill 680 in a 7-4 vote earlier this month.

"This is not good," said Sherri Rodriguez, associate dean of student services. "I'm extremely concerned because once the budget crisis is over, tuition could keep going up. There needs to be a limit."

The bill was written as a compromise to the \$24 a unit that Gov. Gray Davis proposed in the January budget report. Many legislators think a tuition increase is unavoidable, but increases should be fair, predictable and moderate.

"We anticipate increases when economy is weak," state chancellor's representative Kirsten Macintyre said. "But a \$24 (governor's original number) increase in one semester is insane."

While the legislature and chancellor's office are supportive of gradual increases, initial response from Valley students and faculty are against any increase to fee hikes.

"This is community college, it's supposed to be affordable," student Shifaa Alway

See 'BUDGET' on page 2

## "Inside Looking Out"



TAMMY ABBOTT / VALLEY STAR

GO WITH THE FLOW - Kendra Hartman dances to "Inside Looking Out," choreographed by Carla Lubow during Valley College's dance consortium on April 24 in the Mainstage Theater.

## Presidential Hopefuls

Three Valley students compete for the ASU Crown

BY SERENA DANIELS  
STAFF WRITER

### James Brevard

Amanda Stewart saw a sign on campus asking for talent for the fine arts festival, so she auditioned. James Brevard, this year's master of ceremonies and director of the festival, sat behind a table along with the other judges and smiled as if he'd discovered the next American Idol.

"I'm so used to being the one on the other side of the table, listening to the judges say, 'Thanks, we'll give you a call,'" Brevard said. "Now I'm that judge, it's so exciting."

Brevard is in his thirties and came to Los Angeles via Pittsburgh and New York two years ago to study acting. But this year, he's taking on politics in hopes that being the new student body president will take his career in a new direction. As the current Commissioner of Fine Arts, Brevard wants to use politics and creativity to create positive change at Valley College.

"School isn't just about getting that piece of paper," Brevard said. "It's about getting involved and learning about what you're passionate about."

Since Brevard set foot on Valley's campus, he's been

doing just that. He first began by taking a screenwriting class, hoping to improve his acting skills. Before long, he was a full-time student.

"I originally moved out here from Brooklyn to be an actor," Brevard said. "One day I got a brochure in the mail from Valley about their new media arts program. I came in, checked it out and realized what I needed to do is get back into school. You can go through life working a steady job, but without an education it's worthless."

Brevard currently serves on several committees including the grade grievance and several event-planning committees and has been working closely with other ASU board members to lobby against the budget cuts on community colleges.

"I want to have more activities on campus and get students to stick around here after they get out of class," Brevard said. "Too many people just come in, go to class and leave without really learning about themselves. We all need to find out what we love to do. There's nothing more important in life than that."

### Kenny Alvarado

Last year's controversy surrounding the school's presiden-

See 'CANDIDATES' on page 2

## Shedding Light on Valley

BY KRISTA CARLSON  
NEWS EDITOR

Although the covered halls at Valley College are well-lit at night, other areas of campus warrant students' concern. While walking around at night, one will huddle in the lit hallways during class breaks but have to cross darkened paths to leave campus. Many of these night students are female.

"It's horrible," student Theone Miller said. "There isn't enough lighting. Being a single female, it's hard when you walk to your car and you hear things but can't see anything." Miller takes four classes a week, all at night. "It's really important to have more sufficient lighting, though I'm not sure what they can do because the schools don't have much money."

Many students feel major areas of concern include the walk between the business-journalism building and the bungalows, campus drive, and

See 'LIGHTS' on p. 2

## The Only Choice for Trustee

BY BEN JAURON  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

From more than 100,000 students in the Los Angeles Community College District eligible to do so, only one applied to run for the student trustee office on the district Board of Trustees — Harbor College student body President Stacey McMullen.

"I work for the students, not for the board, the administrators or the district," McMullen said. "I'm not afraid of any of them and I'm not going to let them railroad us."

Some of the issues McMullen said she's most adamant about are textbook and

cafeteria prices and fighting to prevent a tuition increase. She said she worked very closely with Valley College Associated Student Union President Sam Kbushyan in these matters.

"I don't like the way our funds have been handled," McMullen said. "I watch our money very carefully. Not on my watch, as far as I'm concerned."

She also collaborated with Kbushyan and Valley Parliamentarian Jessica Salazar to organize the March 28 Pershing Square rally and said she handles Harbor's budgetary matters shrewdly.

"Every year the student representatives personality is so different I don't know what to

expect," said Warren Furutani, board of trustees president. "She has a lot of experience that I think is totally going to help us." Furutani added that he worked closely with her at events at Harbor and is traveling with her and a group of Harbor students to Sacramento May 6.

Raising student awareness regarding matters political is another one of McMullen's battles. As student body of Harbor, she set a goal of registering 70 percent of the student body to vote, a goal she said she's almost realized. As trustee, she said she intends to do the same at the district level.

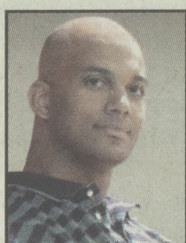
"We haven't reached it yet, See 'TRUSTEE' on p. 2



SAMANTHA KUPPIG / VALLEY STAR

VOTE - Nelson Alfaro exercises his right to vote in the Associated Student Union elections Tuesday at Monarch Square.

## MEET THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES



### James Brevard

ASU Commissioner of Fine Arts  
Major: Film  
"I continue to be a strong advocate for student rights and will do my best to assure this tradition carries on."



### Kenny Alvarado

President, Freshman-Sophomore Club  
Major: Political Science  
"Vote for commitment and a leader with government experience."



### Efrein Gonzales

President, Psychology Club  
Major: Business  
"I will try to get students involved in our school by giving them more opportunities to join in."



## Environmental Task Force Formed at Valley

BY KATHY ARELLANO  
COPY EDITOR

The Valley Environmental Coalition Task Force is made up of Valley College's concerned instructors and students and Associated Student Union's commissioner of campus & environmental concerns Sonja Brown led the formation of the Valley Environmental Coalition in March.

"We want to get people thinking about making a positive contribution to the environment," said earth science department chair Don Gauthier. "As a college, we should take the lead in the community and let people know what's available."

Six people attended the April 22 meeting, including three faculty members, two students, and one visitor. The group hoped for a larger turnout, Brown said.

"I wanted to volunteer some of my time," English professor Rod Moore said. "A lot of campuses already have programs in place, Valley just has to catch up." Moore said he has always

given support for this kind of project. "We're working on the logistics of glass and aluminum recycling. We want to address the issue of feral cats on campus and improve the quality of life for these animals."

Valley Environmental Coalition will meet monthly, in addition to facilitating events such as the first annual "Valley Environmental Awareness Day" in mid-May.

"There will be speakers from Tree People and Sierra Club," said Brown. "We'll have live indigenous music and representatives from natural food and beverage companies."

The group's next meeting is Thursday, May 8 from 2 to 3 p.m. in CC205. Interested students can submit their name, phone number and e-mail address to Sonja Brown in the ASU office (CC102) or attend the May 8 meeting and sign up.

"We would like to educate and inform the entire campus of the many environmental issues that are here," said Brown.

## Candidates Forum Cancelled

BY KATHY ARELLANO  
COPY EDITOR

The Associated Student Union had to cancel last week's candidate's forum due to a scheduling miscommunication and, since the ASU candidates' roster has only seven names, there's a question of whether attendance would have merited the effort.

The UCLA Transfer Fair created plenty of activity in Monarch Square, which added to the scheduling snafu.

"We recently had to fill the Political Affairs seat and five people applied," said Sherri Rodriguez, associate dean of student services and ASU adviser. "I thought we'd have tons of people applying for the other positions."

Some of the comments heard on campus about voting in general included excuses like "I'm too busy... I don't know who the candidates are... My vote won't make any difference... I'm just here to learn... I hate politics... No habla Ingles..." There are as many excuses for not voting as there are numbers of potential voters.

Apathy reigns when it comes to individuals showing up at the polls, whether the election determines national leaders or ASU officers. Last year, 674 out of roughly 18,000 Valley College

voters determined the slate of ASU executive board members, according to ASU records.

Participation at the community college level is very low, according to Maria Agazaryan, ASU Political Affairs Commissioner. "The student body is informed — they just don't care to listen," Agazaryan said. "People just don't show up."

"Valley has terrible school spirit," ASU Presidential hopeful James Brevard said. "I think that's why we had so few applicants."

Marina Sanvelian, a new student in the nursing program had no clue about the upcoming elections. "I'm so busy working and time is a big issue," she said. "You need to have attention-getting events to make people aware."

"All the open positions will be filled after the fall semester starts," Agazaryan said. "The ASU executive council will appoint them."

"I'm disappointed, but that will give us the impetus to do more to promote ASU on campus," said Rodriguez.

## 'Trustee'

continued from page 1

but we're close," McMullen said. "We're getting there."

Kbushyan said he and she worked together closely on the textbook committee where they uncovered a great deal of information and thinks she's more than capable of doing the job.

"I would definitely give her high credentials," Kbushyan said. "I'm sure she'll make a very great and credible student trustee."

"I've worked with Samy this year, and he had a lot of good ideas on how we're going to attack this," McMullen said. "Samy's Awesome. He was on the forefront willing to take a leading role."

McMullen said she was reluctant to run for the position at first but decided to do it at the last minute. To run she had to write a 200-word essay on her biography and qualifications, gather 100 signatures on a petition and bring two letters of recommendation, as well as maintain a 2.0 grade point average and be taking at least six units.

As student trustee, among McMullen's duties are to preside as chair of the student affairs committee. She will have a formal and advisory vote in all board decisions and the right to speak on any issues they raise and bring new ones herself.

## 'Election' continued from page 1

tial campaign left most in the ASU frustrated that the electoral process was not followed and candidates solicited support within 50 feet of the voting booths, when they weren't allowed to do. It left Kenny Alvarado heart broken.

As student body vice president, Alvarado was sure that he'd take the presidency by fall 2002. But his little planning vs. current president Sam Kbushyan's aggressive campaigning, he didn't receive enough votes to move on to the run-off.

"I figured that I was a shoe-in for the job," Alvarado said. "But I was wrong. It taught me a lot, though. Now I've matured a little bit and I know a lot more people on campus who are supporting me. I know I'm ready this time around."

Alvarado, 22, graduated from Grant High School in 1999 and has since been at Valley College. His passion for politics started as a child while watching his father run his own paralegal assistance office. Without a mother, his father was able to raise him and his younger sister and eventually buy a house. Alvarado said that he wanted to make a difference like his father.

"He's always encouraged me to go to college and eventually law school," Alvarado said. "He's always been a leader and now it's my turn to be a leader."

To Alvarado, being a leader is

## 'Tuition' continued from page 1

said. "When they start raising prices that threatens the students who go here."

Valley students have mixed feelings about the proposed fee increase. While they understand the reasoning behind it, they still think that an increase without offering enough classes is wrong.

"These people have been debating this issue for months and it could take a long time to get this through Senate," said Rosemary Smith, administrative assistant to student services. "Once this bill was written though, it didn't take any time for the

assembly to approve it. I'm just worried about the students who are going to have pay for this."

As well as fee-hikes, AB 680 reads that any revenue generated from increases in tuition will go back to its respective school rather than the state's general fund. It also states that, effective fall 2006, the Community College Board of Governors would have the authority to set and adjust community college fees, not the governor as before. Additionally, it would require the state to give at least eight months notice to students about any changes in student fees.

## 'Lights' continued from page 1

the parking lots.

"Toward the bungalows there's an alley section that's poorly lit, also especially in the back of lot A, where there's a lot of trees," student Priscilla Hernandez said. "I never feel safe at night, we walk out in a group. I've noticed they put a little more light in a few areas." Hernandez takes classes three nights a week.

"The new lighting is a major improvement over what used to be here," said Deputy Sheriff Randy Tuinstra, head of campus security. Installation of 110 ten-foot pole lights occurred May of 2002. "It's hard to make every area on campus be completely perfectly lit just because of the way the trees and the landscape is, but it is a definite improvement."

Attendance at Valley is identical for day and night shifts, Tuinstra said. "It should make students feel safer than what it was before because all the lights do work, unless a bulb goes out," Tuinstra said. "We try to monitor that as quick as possible."

The URS Corporation, who's overseeing campus renovations, will find someone to conduct a campus-wide lighting and security study this summer that will look at the lighting on campus. The study will also look other security issues.

"Site lighting is a high priority based on feedback," Valley President Tyree Wieder said. "We want input from teachers who teach at night and night students."

# Armenian Students' Day of Sorrow Canceled but Ararat Still Remembered

BY BILLIE JORDAN  
STAFF WRITER

Countries worldwide recognize the Armenian genocide of 1915 and have designated April 24 a national day of commemoration. The Valley College Armenian Students Association (ASA) and other Armenian groups planned to honor the event on April 22.

"My mother's grandmother witnessed the genocide," student Sedrak Melikyan said. "They were living in caves for a while. My grandmother ran away. She was starving and fell limp and lie in the desert for three days. She was half dead when a kind Turkish man came and took her to his family and gave her water and bread."

While much of the world was engaged in World War I, some say the Turks assumed the Armenian's fate would rank low on the list of world urgencies. Ethnic cleansing ensued and the Turks seized the opportunity to massacre, rape, execute and deport the remaining Armenians out of their empire. Many of their victims died of dehydration and starvation as they forced them to trek through the desert with no resources.

Valley College students wore black ribbons to commemorate the 1.5 million lives lost when Turkish rebel forces attempted to rid themselves of Armenians. "It's a black day for all of us," said Haroutun Vardanian, ASA vice president.

"We want them to admit what happened," said Erna Aridzhanyan, ASA member and editor of the ASA website, valleyasa.com.

The ASA participated in the 88th annual Armenian genocide commemoration march around little Armenia in Hollywood April 24. Participants included 144 Armenian organizations. "This year we had 70,000 people marching the streets," Vardanian said.

Monarch Hall was dou-

ble-booked April 22, much to the chagrin of Armenian students and loved ones who had planned to attend the ASA's annual Armenian genocide awareness day. University of California Los Angeles representatives were prepping Monarch Square for the next day's Transfer Fair activities.

"We weren't too happy with that," Vardanian said. "We had that day reserved since the fall semester — we do it every year. We feel insulted because it's not that easy to get 300 people to attend and then cancel them."

"I have no idea what they're talking about," Master Calendar secretary Cherrie Goldstein said. "They never submitted their application for that day. Their application was for April 25."

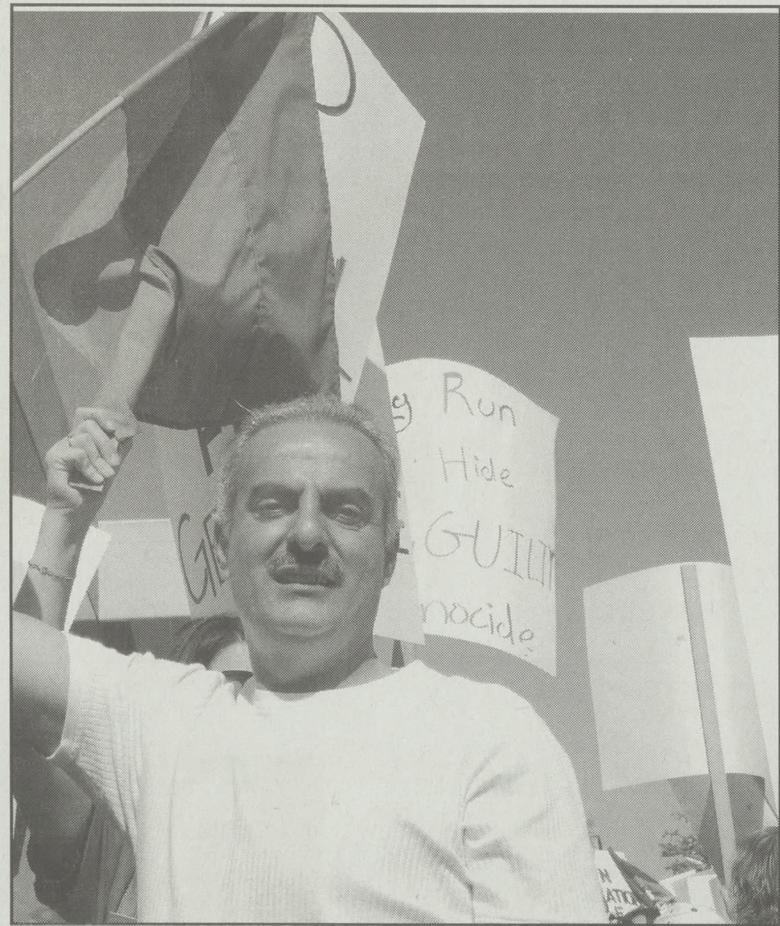
The ASA did reserve April 22 with the student government, according to ASA President Edgar Arijanyan, but they neglected to schedule with Goldstein on the master

calendar. The UCLA transfer team committed to April 22 and April 23 on the master calendar months earlier.

Since it was on the ASU calendar we thought it would flow evenly and nicely," Vardanian said. "I took the day off from work."

A week before the remembrance event, Dean of Administrative Services Brick Durley told the ASA to reschedule, according to Arijanyan. Vardanian said. ASA had planned to have singers, violin players, and dudu (a traditional Armenian instrument), but had to settle for just showing a film on April 25. Less than 15 students showed up in Monarch Hall to see the movie.

The film was "Ararat," a movie that questions whether the Armenian genocide really happened. Some scholars think what took place was a domestic war and many Turks were killed in the dispute.



JESUS CARRENO / VALLEY STAR

COMMEMORATION—An Armenian man protests for recognition of the Armenian genocide of World War One.

system of give and take.

"For every \$1 that tuition goes up, 1,000 students won't be able to attend," Johnson said. "Right now we have so much momentum that it'll be defeated."

The system works similar to barter, according to Johnson, and he said he'd refuse to pay more than \$15 a unit.

"I think he'll do a fantastic job," LACCD student trustee candidate Stacy McMullen said. "He got my vote."

As district 7 representative, Johnson represented all Los Angeles Community College District schools, as well as Compton, Glendale, Pasadena, Santa Monica and El Camino colleges. Johnson works for the office of California Assembly member Mervyn Dymally (D-Compton).

"P.J.'s the man on the scene," Valley College Student Body President Sam Kbushyan said. Kbushyan added that Johnson's taken a lot of money from his own pocket to finance various student causes.

about organization and taking initiative. This year's student involvement has been at it's lowest, he said, and that that was the first thing he wanted to change.

"Being a leader, no matter in what arena, is not about getting served," Alvarado said. "It's not about having people come to you to tell what's going on. It's about stepping up and serving the people."

Alvarado has made a name for himself at Valley. He began as treasurer of Club Latinos United for Education in 2001 and as ASU vice president in spring 2002. He joined students from Valley, Mission and Trade Tech in March to protest community college budget cuts, where he spoke to Sen. Richard Alarcon (D-Van Nuys), who offered him some words of advice.

"Alarcon told me that I'm surrounded in politics and I believe it," Alvarado said. "This has been my calling."

**Efren Gonzales**

The halls are covered with multi-colored flyers about the psychology club, now probably the most active organization on campus. In its short existence, the club has sparked controversy with workshops on everything from sex to hypnosis. Efren Gonzales is at the front of its success.

"When I first became involved, like many others at the time, I attended

meetings because my teacher offered extra credit," Gonzales said. "But I really started getting interested in what the club was trying to do, the advisor needed a lot of help though. But within the time I've been involved it's become one of the biggest clubs around."

Gonzales is 20 and has lived in the San Fernando Valley all his life. He started as vice president about a year ago and is now the club's president. He said he learned a lot about his own leadership skills from the club's past presidents.

"I learned how to not only pay attention to detail, but to look at the big picture as well and at the people I work with," Gonzales said. "I've learned that no one man can accomplish everything by himself."

As far as student involvement, Gonzales pointed out that many people are unaware of what's going on at school and he wanted to work closely with the media to make sure information is passed to students.

"I've just noticed that there's a big need for student involvement on campus," Gonzales said. "If they don't know about an event until the last minute, they can't be expected to show up. Many of us have other things going on. School, work, it all adds up. I think students want to be involved, but they just have to be able to plan ahead."



# OPINION

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STAFF EDITORIAL

## The Student Body Elections are Today

Many community college students work part or full time. Many have families. Many have doctoral or master's degrees. Not many vote in their student body elections.

The student body elections were yesterday and today. It takes less than 10 minutes to drop by the booths in Monarch Square and cast a vote, especially since only the president's position has multiple candidates. And the booths are open for students only taking night classes, the polls being open until 8 p.m. for the first time.

To say there's a low voter turnout is putting it mildly. Last year only roughly four percent of students voted, which the Associated Student Union considered a spectacular showing.

This is reminiscent of a line

from a William Shakespeare version of a man who destroyed a republic. "Let me have men about me that are fat, sleek-headed men, and such as sleep-a-nights," quoth Caesar. "Yond Cassius has a lean and hungry look; he thinks too much: such men are dangerous."

As tomorrow's leaders, college students need to be lean and hungry, not fat, sleek-headed sleep-a-nights.

In hindsight, current ASU President Sam Kbuschyan did a marvelous job at raising awareness and encouraging student participation during his campaign last spring and subsequent term of office. Like the Drill Sergeant who kicks a trashcan across the barracks floor at 4:30 a.m. to jump-start the sleepy recruits, Kbuschyan and his ticket

**“**  
*As tomorrow's leaders, college students need to be lean and hungry, not fat, sleek-headed sleep-a-nights.*  
**”**

partners Manya Avetisyan and Carapet Torossian launched an earth-shattering campaign. It's doubtful any students taking more than three units at Valley College didn't at least see one of their flyers.

"We have a lot of minorities here who don't speak English," Kbuschyan said. "If people don't understand what you're saying they get kind of scared." Kbuschyan added that he had people who spoke Spanish, Armenian and Russian helping to spread his campaign message last spring.

But it seems those who stand ready to replace him haven't followed the lame duck's example. There are no candidates standing on soapboxes. And who can blame them? The candidates' forum scheduled for April 23 was canceled because no one showed.

Presidential candidate and psychology club president Efrein Gonzales said his application for candidacy wasn't approved until Friday. Three schooldays to campaign isn't enough to get the word out there.

Gonzalez' opponents are Freshman-Sophomore club president Kenny Alvarado and ASU commissioner of Fine Arts James Brevard. And they all say the same things, specifically that they're going to fight against the budget cuts and raise student awareness.

Apathy is contagious, but so is involvement. Kbuschyan is confident that the increasing seriousness of state and international affairs will raise what he calls "the fun of participation." Other student leaders in the district don't share his optimism.

"Administrators beat us down constantly, I'm sick of being told what I can't do," said Stacy McMullen, student body president of Harbor College. "When administrators are apathetic, students will be."

McMullen is running unopposed to be the next student trustee to the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees. She said during her term of office at Harbor she launched a program that registered roughly half the student body to vote. Her goal is 70 percent.

Many members of the student government have political aspirations and run for student office to learn about the electoral process. If for no other reason, students should vote to help their brethren in their learning experience.

Today as yesterday, the polls are open today from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Please show your lean and hungry look for 10 minutes and vote.

AN OPINION

## Bigotry Gets a Presidential Pardon

BY RYAN YUDELL  
STAFF WRITER

Every politician has a gimmick, an angle, a platform on which they rest their hopes to win elections. The decision to take certain positions may be personal, but they're more than likely made based on what a politician feels is needed to win votes and get financial support.

In an Associated Press interview last week, Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.) compared homosexuality to bigamy, polygamy, incest and adultery. Democrats immediately slammed Santorum and Republicans like Sen. Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island and Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine, who said his statements were wrong and didn't further the party's principles of inclusion and opportunity.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer spoke for President George W. Bush Friday on the Senator's behalf. "The president has confidence in Sen. Santorum, both as a senator and as a member of the Senate leadership," Fleischer said. "The president believes he's an inclusive man."

What message is the White House sending by making vaguely supportive comments about a man who's obviously not inclusive? Why have so few Republicans opposed Santorum's remarks, and why haven't any asked the third-ranking G.O.P. leader in the Senate to step down?

A recent Associated Press poll showed a majority of people felt homosexual acts shouldn't be illegal, but a majority did feel that such acts were immoral.

Santorum's move to speak so harshly about homosexuality, which many see as political suicide, might just be what the spin-doctor ordered.

The G.O.P., albeit sometimes very silently, is closely related to the religious right. Millions of dollars in campaign funds for the Republican Party have come from the checkbooks of the morally motivated.

Here's where things get tricky if you're a first-term

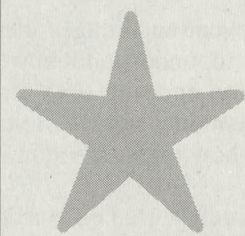
president of the United States. For Bush to be re-elected, he must walk the line between the voters and the people who finance his party. That means he has to satisfy the voting public by telling them what they want to hear and still put on a good show for the financial and religious conservatives who paid his way to the top.

Santorum's comments may have been made on his own accord, but one thing's almost certain — it made the religious right really happy, and what makes them happy makes all Republicans looking for re-election happy, including the president.

What Santorum said was bigoted and ignorant. However, politically it made a broad statement and may serve him well in the end. He spoke his mind, received very little static from his party and even got presidential affirmation.

Politicians do this sort of thing all the time, but what's new is the concept of a conservative wolf in moderate clothing, which Santorum obviously isn't but Bush appears to be.

What inspires the most fear is that the president defined a bigoted moralist as being "inclusive." Does Bush mean inclusive to the public or to his cohorts? If Bush means what he says we may have a rare find on our hands indeed, a politician that tells the truth.



**VALLEY STAR  
ENDORSES:**

**KENNY ALVARADO**  
President, Freshman-Sophomore Club

for  
STUDENT BODY  
PRESIDENT

The other candidates would each make fine presidents, but Alvarado's experience with the ASU and dedication makes him the most qualified candidate.

**AND PLEASE  
REMEMBER TO VOTE!**

## Campus View

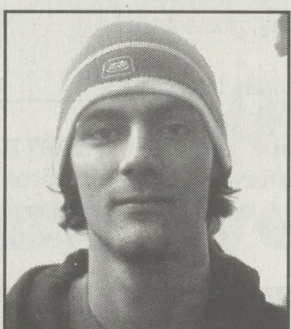
Who are you voting for student body president?

PHOTOS BY ALEX DASH



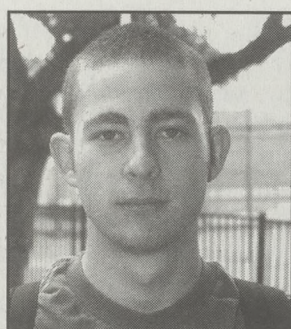
"I'm going to vote for James Brevard because I agree with his policies for embetterment."

Alexis Brebskaya



"I agree with many of James Brevard's school policies."

Mike Charleston



"I'm going to vote for Kenny Alvarado."

Eric Edwards



"I'm not really sure of the candidates."

Arina Fermanyan

## Editorial Cartoon

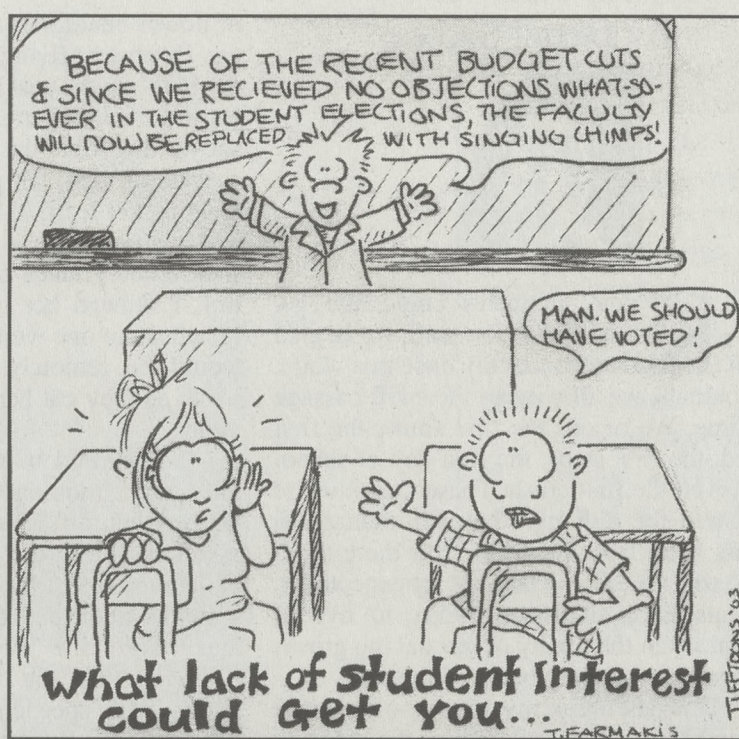


ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR

KRISTA CARLSON

## Earth Matters

Earth day rolled around this year, as it has since 1970, and nobody seemed to care. Nobody knew when it was and nobody planned to recognize it.

Just like so many other holidays, anniversaries and remembrances, Earth day falls at the same time yearly for re-celebration and re-dedication. It reminds the international community of the need for continuing care vital to keeping the earth inhabitable.

"All individuals and institutions have the responsibility to act as Trustees of Earth," according to the official site international Earth day, [www.earthsite.org](http://www.earthsite.org).

Many students at Valley College acknowledged the importance of the observance, but admitted they didn't know when it was, even in days following the holiday.

"I have to study, I have work," student Delia Porros said. "It's important, and it's good to teach children, because I wasn't taught that when I was a child."

Unlike the commercialized holidays, and the holidays citizens get time off work and school for, Earth day would have to have nearly the widest base for recognition. It does not originate from any religion or historical world event, it simply celebrates the earth — and we all live here.

Some people see this observance as a joke. This mass of people who aren't concerned with conservation and preservation of their own habitat is appalling. The reality is that our resources aren't infinite.

"I know that there are people that aren't concerned of the risk, but they know of it," Student Jacques Kennedy said. "I recycle and I try not to use products that hurt the ozone." Kennedy didn't know when Earth day was.

A calamity approaches this planet. Global warming is close at hand. Water and energy crises face the world, and improvements aren't going to make

themselves.

Many feel there's nothing they can do that will make an impact, and to others it's just not a big deal. Predictions for the future, contingent on what we do to stop or slow our polluting ways, include melting icecaps, holes in the ozone, diseased livestock, acid rain, poisoned resources and heightened disease.

"People care, but they don't do anything about it and feel like it won't make a difference," student Veronica Perez said. "I think I feel the same way, but I know it's important to do something."

Caring about the earth and doing something for it isn't just for hippies, it's everybody's job. "The earth will continue to regenerate its life sources only as long as we and all the peoples of the world do our part to conserve its natural resources," U.S. President Gerald Ford said on the initial Earth day. "It's a responsibility, which every human being shares. Through voluntary action, each of us can join in building a productive land in harmony with nature."

It may be easy to disregard changes in the environment today, but it won't be as easy to suffer cancer after the hole in the ozone leaves no protection from the sun's radiation.

People can start with recycling. Throw bottles and cans in a different bag. For those without a separate can for recycling, put the bag out by the trash and there's a good chance someone will recycle it.

Conservation isn't just about animals and scenery. It's not just something activists and outdoorsmen should take an interest in. It's everyone's future, and more importantly, it's the future of the world more than six billion people inhabit. Hopefully all of our children will be able to survive in it tomorrow.

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# VALLEY LIFE

## University Representatives

**California State University, Northridge**  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays in Career/Transfer Center

**Woodbury University**  
3 to 6 p.m. April 30th

**University of Judaism**  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 30th

**University of Redlands**  
10 a.m. to noon May 7th

**University of California, Santa Barbara**  
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 6th

**University of Southern California**  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 7th

## MUSIC

**LAVC Jazz Band**  
Woody James, Director  
11:30 a.m. May 1 in Music Room 112.

**Marina Kesler, International Singer**  
11:30 a.m. May 8 in the Music Recital Hall.

**Valley Symphony Orchestra**  
Robert Chauls, Conductor and Charles Fierro, Piano  
8 p.m. May 10 in the Mainstage Theatre. Admission charge.

## OTHER

**Planetarium Show: The Dinosaur Chronicles**, 8 p.m. May 9 in the Planetarium. Admission Charge.

## Night Life Boogies at Valley

BY KATHY ARELLANO  
COPY EDITOR

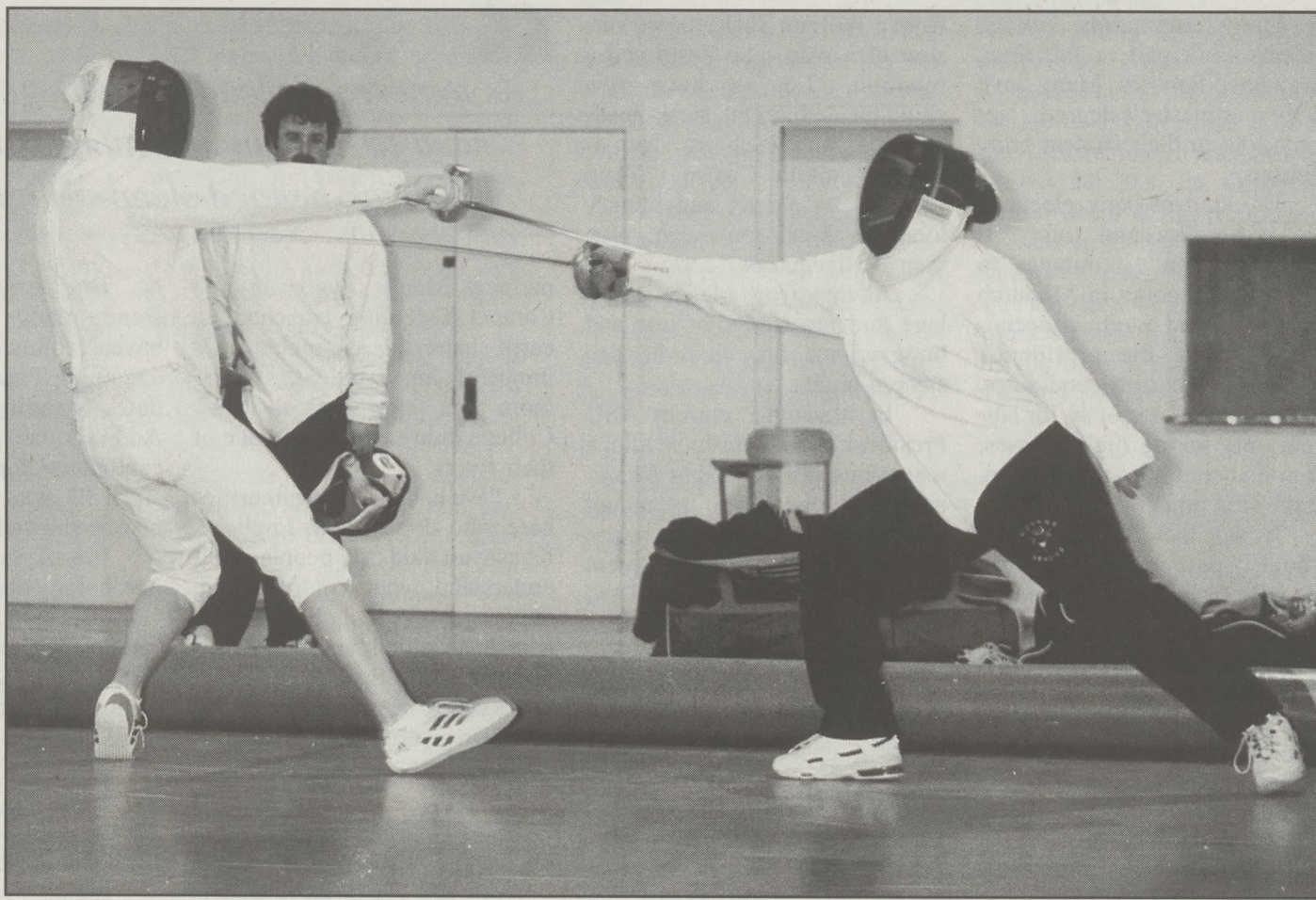
I'm a big fan of community service classes. I've taken everything from belly dancing to pottery, hand drumming to East Coast swing. My kids have taken cartooning and beginning guitar and my grandson took two sessions of a kids beginning computer class. It's a great way to sample potential hobbies or activities without a large investment of time or money.

Valley College community services offer a wide variety of classes to build skills and have fun. In the bright red Winter/Spring 2003 catalog, there are 13 different dance classes, 11 computer classes, 11 entrepreneurial classes and much more.

Designed with the local community in mind, classes are offered at many different times and days, some lasting six to eight weeks, and some meeting just one afternoon or evening, such as the Blues harmonica class.

There are classes for specific age groups, like Kids Gymnastics, or Senior Tai Chi. Often a community service class provides a place for couples to leave the crazy world behind and enjoy each other's company for a few hours a week. "My husband Desmond and I took tap dance classes there for more than a year," said Karen Locke, a graduate of the Professional Paralegal Academy Extension program. "It was wonderful, we had a great time. We don't have time to go to classes right now, but I would love to take another dance class."

It's not all fun and games, though. "Medical Insurance Billing, a three-part class, has 80 students right now. It



JESUS CARREÑO/VALLEY STAR

**EN GUARDE-** Valley College offers a variety of courses at night, among which is fencing. Other interesting classes include dancing, hand drumming, gymnastics, Tai Chi and others.

is a vocational class providing enriched career training," said Annie Goldman, Community Services and Extension program director. "The Notary class has a consistent enrollment of 25 students each time it is offered."

There are other home office-type classes, too. "You can learn conversational Spanish, French, German, Italian or Yiddish in preparation for that vacation you're planning, or you can learn

how to invest your money in the stock market or real estate.

"The community services program started in the late 1950s, offering interest-driven recreational, dance and hobby classes," said Goldman. There are no college credits for these short-term classes. The program is always looking for people to teach interesting or unusual classes or present seminars of interest to the community.

Instructors need some professional or teaching experience but a degree or credential is not usually required. For more information, call Community Services at (818) 947-2577, ext. 4172.

"For years, we've had Community Services," said Valley President Tyree Weider. "I brought my dog here for training I think I even went to traffic school here."



JORGE GALLEGOS/VALLEY STAR

**AUDITIONING-** Rasika Marletto, 16, auditions April 24 in Monarch Hall for the upcoming Fine Arts Festival in Monarch Hall May 9.

## Auditions Seek out Valley's Stars for Fine Arts Festival

BY IVY DAI  
STAFF WRITER

Dancers, singers, pianists, poets and a stand-up comedian showcased their talents at the Fine Arts Festival auditions Thursday in Monarch Hall.

Rasika Marletto, 16, was the youngest contestant. Marletto worked with Adam Parson from The Edge Performing Arts Center in a sexy, slightly tribal jazz dance. The second year Valley College student will transfer in the fall.

"Sperm are much like nuclear missiles," stand-up comedian and actor Jonathan Wayne said. "None of us have actually seen them, but we know they're lurking, somewhere. Each has multiple warheads and any accidental misfire can cause a cataclysmic event." Wayne said he sought clearance from Yasmin Delahoussaye, vice president of student services, to talk about sex.

Valley dance instructor Carla Lubow and her students

fluttered their well-trained feet in "Inside Looking Out," a modern dance piece that explores being an outcast in society. Gospel singer Shaaron Smith crooned through a blues piece.

Dancer, actor and director Fifi Laurent added an artist's perspective to the judging panel. "We have a lot of talent here at Valley College — it's great to have an avenue to expose that talent and have people demonstrate their artistic endeavors," Laurent said.

"One of my goals was to benefit students through the arts and provide a venue for people to spread their wings," Associated Student Union fine arts commissioner and judge James Brevard said. Bo Maguire, ASU student social affairs commissioner, and Parliamentarian Jessica Salazar also judged.

Brevard will emcee this eclectic mix of Valley talent at the Fine Arts Festival on May 9 from 8 to 10 p.m. at the Mainstage Theatre.

## Walk a Mile In Her Shoes

BY BENJAMIN FAVELA  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Men gathered with their families at the Music Lawn of CSUN Saturday and learned one thing — it's not easy to walk a mile in size 15 stilettos.

That was the overall sentiment of the roughly 75 men wearing various women's footwear, from pumps to thigh-high-leather boots, at the third annual Men's March to Stop Rape.

The march, dubbed "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes," takes place at a different place in the San Fernando Valley every year.

"This is our third year, and each year the march doubles in size," said Frank Baird, originator of the march and director of the Valley Trauma Center in Van Nuys, a medical facility that specializes in post-rape and sexual assault trauma.

"Many people see rape as a women's issue," Baird said. "This is probably because women are most often the victims of rape. Through my work with survivors of rape and sexual assault, I have become aware of how important it is for men to become active leaders in rape prevention. By literally walking a mile in women's shoes, we are challenging ideas about rape and sexual assault while having fun."

According to recent estimates from the U.S. Department of Justice, 99 percent of the perpetrators of rape are male and 91 percent

of the victims are female.

It was these statistics the group of men and their families marched to stop. There were then marches of similar kinds around the state of California this year so far and one in Montana.

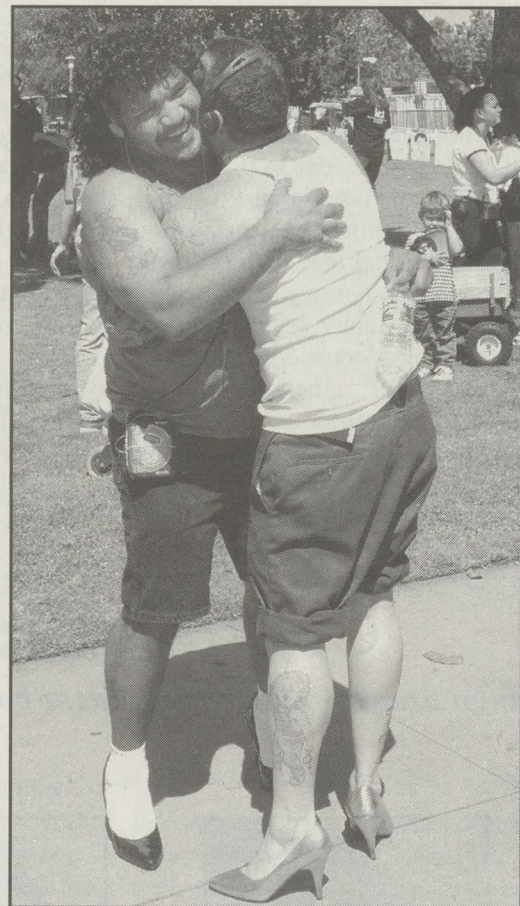
"The event encourages men to walk in high heels to understand how women are treated by the opposite sex," the flyer read. "Yet the event does not encourage women to understand how men are victimized by society."

The march started on Nordhoff Street at Lindley Avenue, went north along Reseda Boulevard, crossed Reseda Boulevard at Prairie Street, then backtracked to CSUN. The marchers, held signs saying "No Means No," and "We Are All Affected By Rape," received honks from drivers-by and cheers from people working in businesses located along the route.

Many onlookers reveled in the fact that nearly all the men marching were wearing high heels, many of which were broken when they returned to the starting point.

Once the march was over, participants and organizers enjoyed doughnuts, pizza and music from various bands.

When asked before the march how he was planning to do the mile walk in bright red, six-inch high heels, Baird laughed, "Very carefully. Put your weight forward, not on the heel."



BENJAMIN FAVELA/VALLEY STAR

**HEART TO HEART, MAN TO MAN-** Al Salvanera embraces a fellow marcher after they completed the mile-long walk at the Men's March to Stop Rape at CSUN Saturday.

## Letting go at the DMV: SLICE OF LIFE

BY JACQUI BROWN



**K**odak moments come and go, but milestones, well, we're glad they come only once in a while. As parents, we all witness the swift passage of time. We record the first smile, the first word, the first steps, the first day of school and even the first crush. These things we're prepared for, although they still manage to wring tears from our eyes. But there are a few that sneak up on us unexpectedly. Parents have an innate ability to live in denial when the reality of our having grown kids smacks us right between the eyes.

This past week my 16-year-old daughter and I hit a huge milestone — the granting

of power behind the wheel of her very first car. I've been driving with her at the helm of my SUV for the past six months, helping her learn the rules of the road, teaching her that she needs eyes in the back of her head to see everything that can put her in harms way. Helping her learn to be aware of everything and everyone as she hurdles down the road with 6,000 pounds of steel under her control. I showed her how to cuss under her breath so no one would be the wiser, no one would be remotely aware of her verbal wrath as they cut her off or run amber stop lights.

Somehow I managed to deny, right to the very moment I pulled into the Department Of Motor Vehicles, till they asked me to exit the vehicle, that she would be alone soon, in her own car, driving around without my eyes to back her up, to make sure she would always be safe. Knowing that she would be sharing the streets with speeders and careless drivers and especially those huge SUVs.

Thursday she crossed the line. She stepped into another place, another moment that would forever change her life and mine. She slid out from under my wing and got her driver's license. She would be out there alone. Be still, my heart!

After the test she dropped me off at home. I stood there on the sidewalk, watching her drive away, to join her friends at school in a celebration of her enormous achievement towards independence. One more step away from her father and I. I felt my knees go weak and my heart pound as I thought back over her life. She was a babe in my arms till now.

She honked as she left and I stood there watching her car until I couldn't see it anymore. I'm not all that religious, but I said a prayer, begging God to watch over her.

I know she'll do just fine, she had a really good teacher. But if you see a champagne-colored Honda Civic cruising down the road with a beautiful little girl driving it, give her a little extra room, just in case!



# Daccurso's Disciples Document Drugs in Depth

BY JAQUI BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

The International Family Film Festival (IFFF) is hosting its ninth annual film festival in Valencia that runs through May 1, where they'll hold a family-oriented awards show at Valencia Town Center Edwards-Regal Cinemas.

"In Their Own Words... Advocacy Works," — a 54-minute pro-advocacy documentary produced, written and directed by Valley College media arts professor Joseph Daccurso — was screened along with over 55 other films from more than 15 countries.

"The quality of the works screened is fabulous," the IFFF's film programmer Padde Dee said. "The enthusiasm and support for seeing these films on the big screen is growing tremendously. Film makers who don't know if they really did the right thing can come into this atmosphere and be joined by others who understand the creative spirit."

This was the film's premier, which has already won a Tele Award and a Videographer Award of Distinction. This is the first of about 14 other festivals it's entered in.

The documentary delves into societal stigmas placed on recovering addicts as they work to change their lives. Daccurso and his students built the script around six questions presented to a diverse group of people in alcohol and other drug abuse treatment and recovery programs. The film teaches them they need to have a voice in their own recovery by demanding the government provide more funding, make beds available when needed, and allow everyone the opportunity for quality care.

"The students who worked on this film are indicative of the students at Valley College in the cinema and media arts department," Daccurso said. "With student crew members working full-time or half-time jobs and taking from six to fourteen units of classes, the average time devoted to the project was 325 hours per crew member."

Cinema/media arts majors Shervin Ahdout, Salvador Castellanos, Josephine Dell'Anno, Donald Lewis II, Darrin O'Connor and Rachel Tucker did the digital-video cinematography, sound and editing on the film as part of their directed studies workshop at Valley.

"The hardest part for me personally was trying to make this film, work, take classes and spend time with my family," said Ahdout, who postponed going to the University of Santa Barbara so he could finish this project. "I think we made the world a better place in the

six months it took to make this film."

"I learned that it's not you that makes the film, it's the team," Tucker said. "I feel that after this documentary I'm ready to go out there, that I can actually do it now."

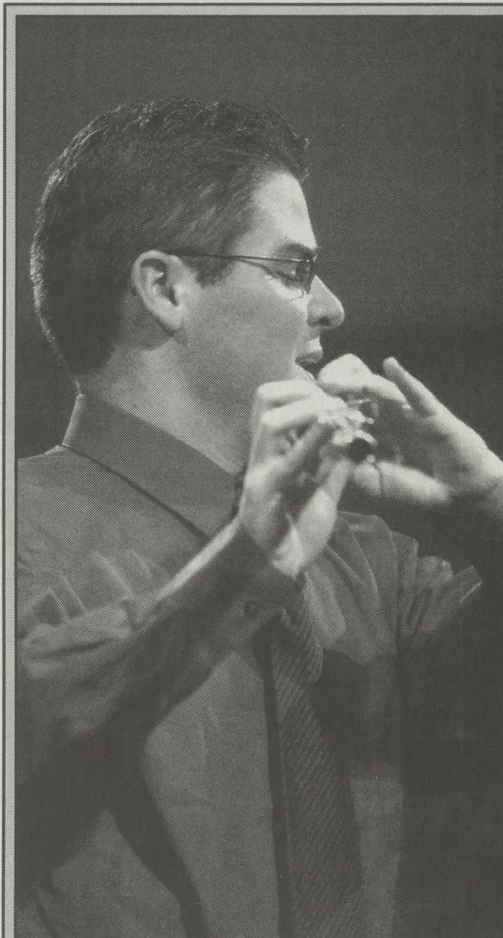
All the crew members agreed that the team work it took, the hours of editing down approximately 34 hours of raw footage, learning how to work all the equipment and figuring out how to make everything work was a huge load.

"We all had job or other commitments," Dell'Anno said. "If one person couldn't get there another team member picked up the pieces until the work was done."

The California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives, Inc. in Sacramento sponsored the documentary. A federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services also funded it in part.

"We have already had 350 copies of the film ordered by a non-profit organization to provide health care workers a tool to lobby the legislators in Sacramento for more funding," Daccurso said. "This film went into this festival as a professional film. They're playing with the big boys now."

"It was hundreds of hours of work and I almost lost patience," Castellanos said. "But we all stuck together. We were dedicated."



JORGE GALLEGOS/VALLEY STAR

**FLUTE NOTES-** John Zuckerman performed the flute at Valley College April 24 in the Music Recital Hall.

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There are no fees or credit checks, nor is there any penalty for early repayment of your consolidation loan. Note however, that you can only consolidate once and consolidation can affect certain deferment and cancellation benefits associated with loans.

**Are you about to Graduate?**

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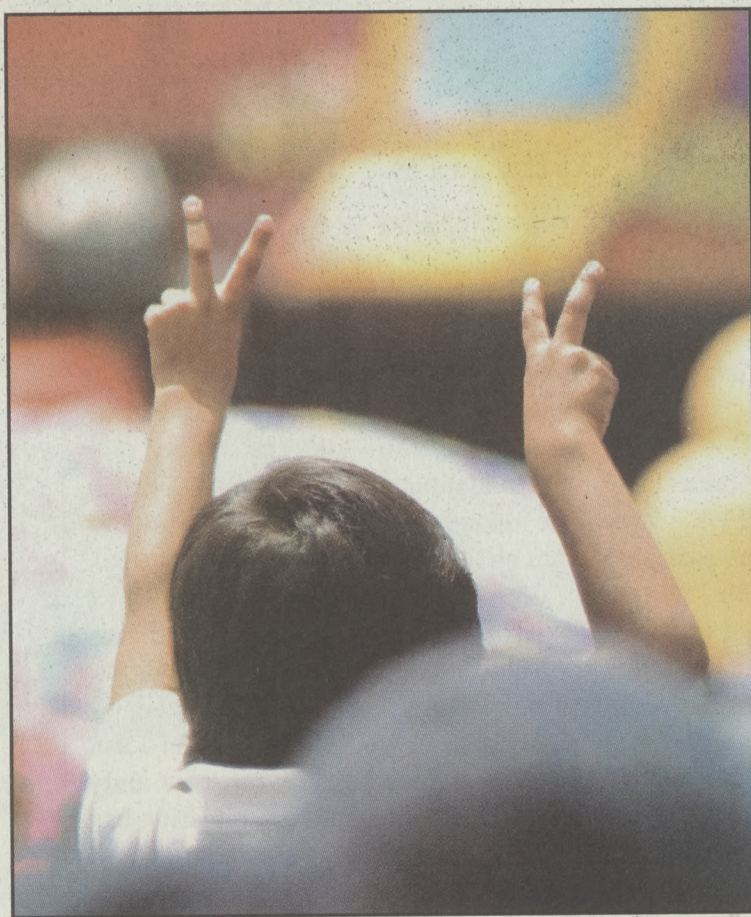
**DELIGHTFUL DAY**-Anayea shared her music with this year's Fiesta Broadway visitors.



SALVADOR AGUILAR/ VALLEY STAR

**REFRESHING**-Families enjoyed food from one of many food stands across Broadway Street

# FIESTA BROADWAY



SALVADOR AGUILAR/ VALLEY STAR

**PEACFUL CELEBRATION**-A youngster throws the peace sign showing his emotions.

**T**he 14th annual Fiesta Broadway took place in Downtown Los Angeles Sunday with the smallest attendance in its history. Perhaps the lack of recognized artists and the poor advertising of the event was to blame for the low turnout to an event that in previous years have reached an estimated 500,000 visitors. With a large variety of entertainment from music and kid's games to mini soccer matches, food and free samples, this popular fiesta launched the beginning of Cinco de Mayo celebrations across Los Angeles.

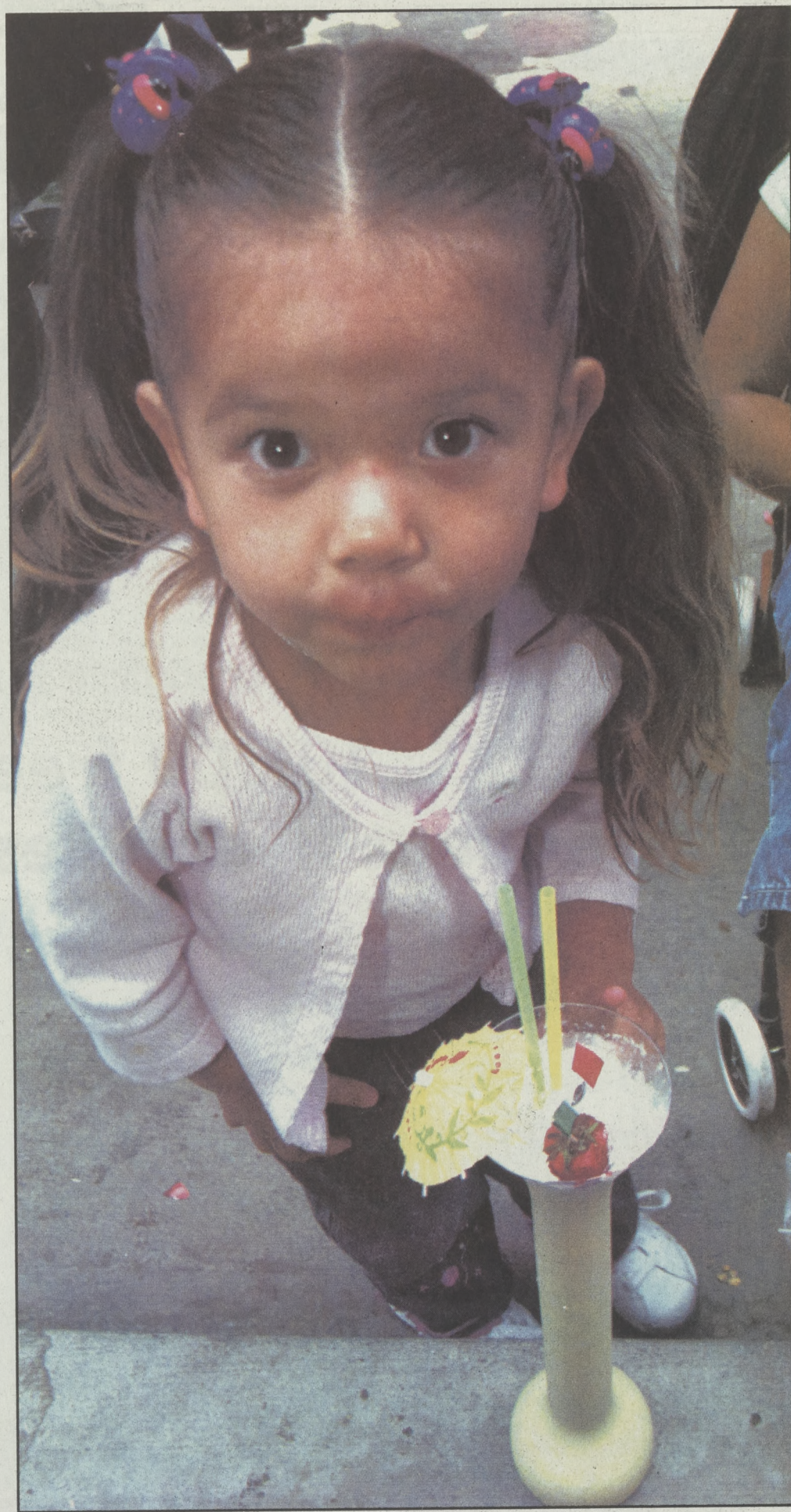
LAYOUT AND TEXT BY JORGE GALLEGOS

PHOTOS BY SALVADOR AGUILAR AND JORGE GALLEGOS



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

**MEXIFRUIT**-Carmen Magana prepares cups of fruit adorning each one with a Mexican flag.



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

**TASTY**-A young girl enjoys her drink on her visit to Fiesta Broadway.